


independent claim 34.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that at least the claims of Species I and III-VIII should have been grouped together as a single species and respectfully requests reconsideration. An early first action on the merits is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative if it is believed discussion of any issue will expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.

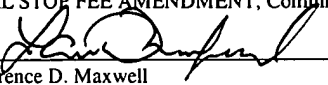


Lawrence D. Maxwell
Registration No. 35,276

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.
Customer Number 23859
Tel: 678-420-9300
Fax: 678-420-9301

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
MAIL STOP FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date listed below.



Lawrence D. Maxwell

12-8-03

Date